



00862.022285

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| In re Application of: |) | |
| | : | Examiner: H. Nguyen |
| Yutaka TANAKA et al. |) | |
| | : | Group Art Unit: 2851 |
| Application No.: 09/897,930 ✓ |) | |
| | : | Confirmation No.: 1834 |
| Filed: July 5, 2001 |) | |
| | : | Allowed: February 11, 2004 |
| For: PROCESSING APPARATUS FOR |) | |
| PROCESSING SAMPLE IN | : | March 11, 2004 |
| PREDETERMINED ATMOSPHERE |) | |

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT REGARDING SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Sir:

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended toward his undersigned representative during the telephone conversation of February 2, 2004, which was reported in the Notice of Allowance dated February 11, 2004, in the above-identified application. The Examiner requested approval to cancel non-elected claims 22, 26 and 27 by Examiner's Amendment, and such approval was given by Applicants' undersigned representative.

Applicant's undersigned representative may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
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Registration No. 33,326

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